

VALENTINE COWGILL.

MARCH 5, 1840.

Laid on the table.

Mr. GOGGIN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Nathaniel Offutt, and others, citizens of the county of Hampshire, in the State of Virginia, report :*

That the petitioners set forth that in the year 1835 Valentine Cowgill enlisted as a private soldier for the term of three years ; that, after he had been at the rendezvous for some time, and finding that his constitution, which was of a delicate character, forbade his longer continuance in the service, he deserted, without having received any of the public money, or injuring the Government ; since that period he has become the head of a family, which is entirely dependent on him for support : they therefore ask for the release of the said Cowgill from service.

It appears to your committee, on inquiry at the Adjutant General's office, that the said Cowgill enlisted on the 5th of March, 1835, deserted on the 16th of the same month, and is now a *deserter at large*. It appears to have been the established usage of the service not to extend any indulgence or do any act of lenity to a deserter, *when absent and running at large as such*. Occasionally deserters at large have been pardoned by the President by proclamation, as at the close of the late war. The committee ask to be discharged from the further consideration of said memorial.

Blair & Rives, printers.

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